

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for editing a netlist, the method comprising:
providing a netlist comprising a set of netlist modules;
5 creating a changes module describing at least one change to the netlist modules;
using the changes module to modify at least one of the netlist modules according to the at least one change to create a modified netlist.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the changes module contains a modifier associated with at least one of the netlist modules, the modifier indicating a change in the associated netlist module or instantiation of a module.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the netlist modules comprise a hardware description language netlist.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the changes module comprises a file separate from the netlist.
- 20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the using the changes module to modify at least one of the netlist modules further comprises:
parsing the netlist to create representational netlist comprising an array of objects, each object containing information about an associated element of the netlist;
changing the representational netlist according to the set of changes;
25 converting the representational netlist into a hardware description language.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the changes module comprises hardware description language syntax.

5 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the using the changes module to modify at least one of the netlist modules is performed by a netlist compiler.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the using the changes module further comprises modifying a port configuration of a wire.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein the using the changes module further comprises modifying a port configuration of a wire at different hierarchical levels of the netlist.

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10. The method of claim 1, wherein the changes module contains an instance modifier associated with an instance, the instance modifier indicating a change in the connection of a particular port of the instance.

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11. The method of claim 1, wherein the changes module contains an attribute modifier associated with a netlist element, the attribute modifier indicating a change in one or more attributes associated with the netlist element.

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12. The method of claim 1, wherein the changes module contains a port modifier associated with a netlist element, the port modifier indicating a change in a port configuration of the netlist element.

13. A method for editing a netlist, the method comprising:

providing a netlist comprising a set of netlist modules;

creating a changes module describing at least one change to the netlist

5 modules, the at least one change including a change in a port configuration of a wire
in the netlist;

using the changes module to modify at least one of the netlist modules
according to the at least one change to create a modified netlist.

10 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the using the changes module further
comprises modifying the port configuration of the wire.

15 15. The method of claim 13, wherein the using the changes module further
comprises modifying the port configuration of the wire at different hierarchical levels
of the netlist.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein the changes module contains a definitional
modifier associated with at least one of the netlist modules, the definitional modifier
indicating a change in the associated netlist module or instantiation of a module
20 within the associated netlist module.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein the changes module contains an attribute
modifier associated with a netlist element, the attribute modifier indicating a change
in one or more attributes associated with the netlist element.

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18. The method of claim 13, wherein the changes module contains an instance modifier associated with an instance, the instance modifier indicating a change in the connection of a particular port of the instance.

5 19. The method of claim 13, wherein the changes module comprises hardware description language syntax.

20. A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for performing:

- 10 receiving a netlist comprising a set of netlist modules;
receiving a changes module describing at least one change to the netlist modules;
using the changes module to modify at least one of the netlist modules according to the at least one change to create a modified netlist.

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